

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00721 01 OF 02 171319Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 CU-04 BIB-01 SOE-02
AID-05 CEA-01 DODE-00 DOE-11 H-01 INT-05 L-03
NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15
STR-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PRS-01 PA-01 /127 W
-----030326 171405Z /46

R 170830Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6731
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 0721

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, UR
SUBJECT: OPEN LETTER APPEALS FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY

SUMMARY: PRAVDA (JANAURY 14) CARRIES FULL FRONT PAGE LETTER FROM TOP PARTY, GOVERNMENT, TRADE UNION AND YOUTH ORGANIZATION BODIES APPEALING FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY IN SOVIET PRODUCTION IN 1978. IN ASSESSING RESULTS OF FIRST TWO YEARS OF CURRENT FIVE YEAR PLAN, LETTER FINDS MORE TO BLAME THAN TO PRAISE AND NOTES THAT OLD PROBLEMS OF WASTEFUL USE OF RESOURCES IS CONTINUING, AND THAT VOLUME OF UNFINISHED CONSTRUCTION IS STILL RISING. LETTER FAILS TO MENTION WHICH MEASURES LEADERSHIP MAY HAVE IN MIND TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA (JANUARY 14) PUBLISHES IN FOUR COLUMN SPREAD OCCUPYING FIRST PAGE AND ONE HALF OF THE NEWSPAPER THE TEXT OF A JOINT LETTER FROM COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, SUPREME TRADE UNION COUNCIL AND MOMSOMOL CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPEALING TO CONSTITUENTS AND ALL SOVIET WORKERS TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00721 01 OF 02 171319Z

"FULFILL AND SURPASS" 1978 PLAN AND TO INTENSIFY STRUGGLE FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY AND HIGHER QUALITY IN PRODUCTION. ALTHOUGH THE JOINT LETTER CONTAINS PRAISE, ITS DOMINANT THEME IS THAT SOVIET SYSTEM IN THRID YEAR OF "SO-CALLED PLAN OF EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY" CONTINUES TO REFLECT WASTE OF LABOR, RAW MATERIALS (INCLUDING FUELS) AND MACHINERY. WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS TEXT OF LETTER AND THEREFORE CONFINE OURSELVES TO HIGHLIGHTS.

2. WE FOUND THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST:
ACCORDING TO THE JOINT LETTER -

- ONE OF EVERY ELEVEN ENTERPRISES FAILED TO MEET TARGETS IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF PRESENT FIVE YEAR PLAN, AT COST OF FOUR BILLION RUBLES.

- ABSENTEEISM, IDLENESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE COST THREE BILLION RUBLES OF POTENTIAL PRODUCTION IN 1977 IN INDUSTRY ALONE. FULL CAPACITY WAS NOT UTILIZED IN THE OUTPUT OF PIG IRON, STEEL, MINERAL FERTILIZER, TRACTORS, METAL CUTTING MACHINERY AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS.

- "TENS OF THOUSANDS" OF MACHINES WERE IDLE DAILY IN 1977 IN SOVIET ENGINEERING WORKS, A FAULT WHICH THE LETTER ATTRIBUTED IN PART TO THE PREVALENT USE OF ONLY ONE LABOR SHIFT. TRACTORS ON STATE AND COLLECTIVE FARMS WERE IDLE 13 PERCENT OF THE TIME.

- THE WASTEFUL USE OF METALS IS UNACCEPTABLE, WITH MILLIONS OF TONS SUSPENDED IN UNFINISHED CONSTRUCTION AND UNINSTALLED EQUIPMENT (THE VOLUME OF WHICH CONTINUES TO RISE) AND WITH LARGE LOSSES THROUGH REJECTION OF PRODUCTION (I.E. ON GROUNDS OF QUALITY OR SUITABILITY).

- SOME 3,000 ENTERPRISES AND ORGANIZATIONS EXCEEDED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 00721 01 OF 02 171319Z

AUTHORIZED USE OF FUEL AND SOME 2,600 THE USE OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY, COSTING SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO MEET THE ANNUAL NEEDS OF "SEVERAL LARGE CITIES."

- ANNUALLY GREAT QUANTITIES OF GRAIN, POTATOES, VEGETABLES AND FRUITS ARE LOST IN HARVESTING, TRANSPORTATION, PROCESSING AND STORAGE, AND MUCH MINERAL FERTILIZER IS SPOILING.

- NINE MONTH STATISTICS FOR 1977 SHOW EXCESS COSTS FOR INPUTS AT 1.5 BILLION RUBLES, PARTICULARLY IN THE CHEMICAL AND COAL INDUSTRIES AND IN LIGHT INDUSTRY, WITH MANY CASES OF UNJUSTIFIABLE DIFFERENCES IN COST OF PRODUCTION OF THE SAME ARTICLE. COST OVERRUNS ARE STILL FREQUENT.

-. THE "KNOWN TROUBLES" OF FREIGHT TRANSPORT ARE ATTRIBUTABLE NOT ONLY TO INSUFFICIENT MEANS BUT EVEN TO CAUSES WHICH COULD BE ALLEVIATED WITHOUT LARGE EXPENDITURES, SUCH AS REDUCING LOADING/UNLOADING TIME AND FULLY UTILIZING ALL TYPES OF TRANSPORT. WHILE THE RAILROADS ARE (PREDICTABLY) FIRST CITED, TRUCK TRANSPORT IS ALSO INEFFICIENTLY EXPLOITED. IN THE CENTRAL BLACK EARTH REGION, ONLY 40 PERCENT OF AVAILABLE MACHINES AND ONE OF EVERY TWO COUPLERS IS USED, WITH VEHICLES IN USE ONLY

NINE HOURS OF EACH 24 AND OF THAT ONLY TWO IN ACTUALLY LOADING
OR UNLOADING.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00721 02 OF 02 171334Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 CU-04 BIB-01 SOE-02
AID-05 CEA-01 DODE-00 DOE-11 H-01 INT-05 L-03
NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15
STR-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PRS-01 PA-01 /127 W
-----030417 171412Z /46

R 170830Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6732
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 0721

- THE "LARGE RESOURCES" OF MARITIME, RIVER AND AIR TRANSPORT ARE
MENTIONED, WITHOUT IT BEING SPECIFICALLY NOTED THAT THESE ARE
INEFFICIENTLY UTILIZED.

- WHEREAS AGRICULTURAL SHORTCOMINGS ARE USUALLY BLAMED ON
THE WEATHER, THE LETTER POINTS TO THE NEED BETTER TO EXPLIT
THE GROWING STOCK OF RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE TO SOVIET FARMERS.
IN TWO ADJACENT REGIONS, TAMBOV AND VORONEZH, THE LATTER WAS
DEFICIENT IN GRAIN OUTPUT BY 3.5 CENTNERS/HECTAR, IN SUNFLOWERS
BY 3.4 CENTNERS/HECTAR AND IN SUGAR BEETS BY 90 CENTNERS.

3. NOTEWORTHY ON THE POSITIVE SIDE WAS THE FAVORABLE REFERENCE
TO THE GOOD RESULTS ACHIEVED, INTER ALIA, BY THE MAIN TYUMEN
OIL AND GAS ADMINISTRATION, A KEY TO THE FUTURE ENERGY OUTPUT
OF THE USSR. GOOD ORGANIZATION OF WORK WAS CITED FOR THE BAM
RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT KAMAZ (SIC), ATOMMASH AND BASHKIR
OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISES. ACCORDING TO THE LETTER, THE LVOV
SYSTEM OF QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (MOSCOW A-298) IS RECEIVING
BROADER APPLICATION, AND THE "MARK OF QUALITY" GIVEN TO A GROWING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00721 02 OF 02 171334Z

BUT UNSPECIFIED PERCENTAGE OF PRODUCTION.

4. MISSING IN THE APPEAL, WHICH APPEARS TO BE MAINLY A TESTIMONY TO THE CONTINUATION OF WASTE AND INEFFICIENCY IN THE SOVIET ECONOMY, IS ANY INDICATION OF THE MEASURES WHICH THE LEADERSHIP IS TAKING TO BRING ABOUT CHANGES IN THE SYSTEM RESPONSIBLE. THE LETTER MERELY REITERATES THE PLENUM AND PLAN'S CALL FOR DISCIPLINE AND "SOCIALIST EMULATION." FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS SUCH SLOGAGS HAVE RATED ONLY A FEW EDITORIALS AT THE TIME OF YEAR. THE "LETTER" THEREFORE PUTS MORE POLICY-LEVEL PUSH BEHIND THE CALL THAN HAS BEEN EVIDENT FOR SOME TIME. THE REAL TEST WILL BE WHETHER SUCH MORAL STIMULI MOVE THE SYSTEM ANY MORE. MANY SOVIET ECONOMISTS MAY NOW SUSPECT THAT IT IS THE SYSTEM ITSELF AND NOT A FEW MALEFACTORS WHICH NEEDS REFORM. AS A GOSPLAN OFFICIAL TOLD US NOT LONG AGO, SPEAKING OF THE COMPLAINT THAT GOSPLAN PLANS IN TOO GREAT DETAIL, "WHO TOLD US TO DO SO?" THE OBVIOUS ANSWER IS THAT IS WAS THE SAME PEOPLE WHO WROTE THE OPEN LETTER PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 14 IN PRAVDA.

MATLOCK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, YOUTH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW00721
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780024-1027
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW JOINT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780156/aaaabunq.tel
Line Count: 192
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 89cecf2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3763228
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPEN LETTER APPEALS FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY SUMMARY: PRAVDA (JANUARY 14) CARRIES FULL FRONT PAGE LETTER FROM TOP PARTY, GOVERNMENT, TRADE UNION AND YOUTH
TAGS: EGEN, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/89cecf2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014